a-half-hours is long time and not many Members are listed for it. There are five speakers. Instead of Short Duration Discussion, I would say a 'short discussion'. Because the moment we say Short Duration Discussion, then automatically the Secretariat puts two-and-a-half hours to be correct. So, let us say a 'discussion', however big or small it be. I am told it is extremely cold outside. So, we are safe inside. मंत्री जी आ जाएंगे, तब तक आप नोट्स वगैरह ले लें । राजनाथ जी या आप लिख लीजिए । मंत्री जी नीचे आ रहे हैं ।

श्री सतीश प्रधान : मंत्री जी टीवी देखने गए हैं ।

उपसभापति : कैस देखने के लिए गए हैं । मंत्री जी बोलकर गए थे कि जब यह खत्म हो जाए, मुझे नीचे बुला लीजिएगा।

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

on the situation arising out of the implementation of the conditional access system

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL (Bihar): Thank you, Madam, Deputy Chairman. I rise on behalf of my party to raise a discussion on the situation arising out of the implementation of the Conditional Access System. Madam, as you might remember, the multi-service operators and the local operators had decided that December 14 was going to be the D-day, and come December 15 onwards, the Conditional Access System as far as south Delhi was concerned, was to be put into effect. And low and behold, in fact, on 15th December almost throughout South Delhi, the TV screens of middle class households were blackened out. There was no reception. The Set Top Boxes were not available and, by and large, the consumers in South Delhi were confused as to whether or not they should indeed buy a Set Top Box. By December 15, nobody knew what was the price of the set-up boxes. If you remember, in this House, the then Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, when introducing the Amendment Bill, on December 2,2002, gave an assurance to this House that upon implementation of CAS, the price to the consumer would be less than the price that the consumer was paying without CAS. I distinctly remember that assurance. I was the one who raised the issue saying. "Please don't implement CAS in this fashion. Please send it to the

Standing Committee. Let the issue of price be worked out. Let the availability of set-up boxes be worked out. Let us find out what the distribution channels are going to be. Let us find out who the manufacturers are going to be. Let us find out how the whole policy is to be implemented. Let us decide upon who the regulator is going to be. "Since all these aspects were not gone into, we pleaded with the Minister that it is not in the order of things, not in the interest of the consumers to implement CAS in this fashion. The Minister gave that assurance, and on that basis, we agreed to pass the Amendment Bill, and ever since December 2, 2002-and we are on December, 2003-the situation, in fact, is even more confusing, far more confusing than what it was on December 2, 2002. Why do I say that? In the meantime, the Government issued a nofitication, under Section 4A of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, making it obligatory, for the cable operators to transmit and re-transmit signals, in respect of pay channels, to homes in Delhi. And they started this experiment with respect to only four metropolitan cities-Calcutta Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi! And despite the fact that the notification was issued, the matter was being delayed because the Central Government could not put things in place, as we had expected, Ultimately, somebody went to the Delhi High Court and filed a petition asking, "Despite the fact that there is a notification that is issued, which makes it obligatory for the cable operator to transmit and retransmit the signal, how is it that the Central Government had delayed the implementation of the notification? The reason was that the election were coming. The elections were round the corner; consumers in Delhi were up in arms, and, naturally, the NDA coalition thought that this would be harmful to our prospects in the election in Delhi, and, therefore, let us not implement it. Madan Lal Khuranaji made several statements in the public saying that this way, they would lose elections, on this issue. Anyway, despite the fact that you delayed it, you still lost the elections. But that is neither here nor there. The issue is, let up now come to grips as to what the problems are, that are facing the public, because now, you-have to decide to implement CAS on a zonal basis. In other words, you want the experiment to succeed in South Delhi. If the experiment does not succeed in South Delhi, then, you, probably, will give a go-by to it. If it succeeds in South Delhi, then, you will implement it in other areas. But today, Madam, let me just place before this House what it is going to cost the consumer in Delhi, if CAS is implemented. And I want to just give you some figures I just

want to preface that by saying that the average monghly bill that the consumer was paying; before the implementation of CAS, was Rs. 125/-, throught the country; I am giving the average. Today, what is the amount that it is going to cost the consumer? Sony Television has said that its bouquet of channels, which, originally, was going to be offered for Rs. 60/- would be Rs. 68/-/ The ESPN and Star channel say that they will give the bouquet at a price ranging from Rs. 32/- to Rs. 40/-. Ten Sports has raised its price from Rs. 13/- to Rs. 30/-; Zee, from Rs. 55/- to Rs. 65/-; Star's is a constant, Rs. 60/-. Add to that, the entertainment tax, which is Rs. 20/- the service tax, which is Rs. 20-25; and the basic delivery service charge by the local cable operator, which is Rs. 170; and the grand total comes to Rs. 478. We don't include in this the rental of the Set Top Boxes.

As regards the Set Top Boxes, the people have alternatives. I just want to point that out to the hon. Members of this House. What are those alternatives? The alternatives are that you can get Set Top Boxes either from the Siti Cable for a total price of Rs. 3,880— we were told by the then Minister that the Set Top Boxes would cost less than Rs. 2,000-or, from Hathway for Rs. 3,917, or, from in Cable Net for Rs. 3,944 and, of course, you can take these Set Top Boxes by paying a security deposit and paying a monthly on it. That monthly varies from Rs. 18-20. You add Rs. 18-20 to Rs. 478 and it comes to a whole sum of Rs. 500. What an average consumer was paying , before the implementation of CAS, was Rs. 125 and, after the implementation of CAS, he is going to pay Rs. 500. It is entirely contrary to the assurance of the Minister. What is the use of CAS to the ordinary consumer in Delhi?

Let me tell you another thing. The CAS was sought to be implemented in Chennai, Let me tell you what has happened in Chennai. That is another very interesting story. What has happened in Chennai is that there are 12 lakh cable-connected homes, but only 15,000 Set Top Boxes" were sold so far. The people of Chennai said, we dont need the Set Top Boxes", because most of the programmes which they would like to watch are in Tamil. They would like to watch their own particulat chanels. They are not interested in Star and other things. The result is that the Set Top Boxes have not been sold. In Chennai, today, an average consumer is paying just Rs. 90 per month, including taxes and the consumer in Delhi is going

to pay Rs. 500. So, this is a very serious situation. That is the reason. I am afraid the same thing is going to happen in Delhi also. The Government must realise one thing. Ultimately, the broadcasters are not going to be able to survive, if people do not see their programmes. We must understand that there are four levels at which all this is done.

Firstly, there is the programme maker. He is the person who makes the programme. Secondly, there is the programme operator. He is the broadcaster. He is the one who sends the signals. Thirdly, there is the programme distributor, who is the MSO, the Mutli-Service Operator. Fourthly, there is the last mile operator, that is, the LCO, the Local Cable Operator, and then there is the consumer. When the signal comes in that hierarchy, that is, from the top the bottom, the payment is from the bottom to the top because, unless the consumer pays, the broadcasters are not going the money. Ultimately, the broadcasters depend on advertisements for their revenue. If people don't see their programmes and they don't get TRPs, the proper ratings, they don't get their advertisement revenues. What is the rationale of seeking to implement the system? I thought the rationale was, and I think that was the right rationale, that the local cable operator was not disclosing as to how many consumers he was servicing. That is what the Minister said when the amendment was introduced. The cable operator, when he discloses that he is servicing only 2,800 people, in fact, he is servicing more than 20,000 people. He is not paying enough money to the broadcaster and the result is that the broadcaster says, "If you are not going to pay enough money to me, I need CAS bacause, through CAS, you will have to disclose as to how many people you are servicing, I will get my revenue and the Government will get its taxes".

That is what the rationale was at that point of time. But along with that rationale, the assurance was that the ordinary consumer would not have to pay more than Rs. 125-150/-. But that is not the case any more. So, the very reason for your bringing in this amendment, the very rationale for your pushing CAS down the throats of the people of Delhi has been destroyed, unless you are able to tell us that the ordinary consumer in Delhi will have to pay less than Rs. 125-150/- And, you cannot ensure it because you cannot control the rates at which the broadcasters are going to charge for the signals that they deliver to the Multi Service Operator (MSO). In your Act itself, the only thing that you

can regulate is the basic tier, that is, the free-to-air channels. You cannot regulate anything else. You cannot regulate the price of the pay channels. And, if you cannot regulate the price of the pay channels, the pay channels are going to charge whatever thay want. And, the proof of pudding is in eating. I have given the figures, and the figures make it that the total sum would be anywhere between Rs. 400-500. So, how is this Government going to explain to the people of Delhi the fiasco that has occurred because of the Amendment of this Act of 1995? You are surely directly responsible for that fiasco. You must explain to the people of Delhi. Now, we are going to have the Test Match in Australia starting 26th of this month. I know that even in other places in Delhi, not just the south Delhi where the CAS is sought to be implemented, the cable operators there are not giving signals even to these people even though CAS has not been implemented there so far. Why is it so? It is because they want to force them to buy the Set Top Boxes. Look at an ordinary Government servant in this country. He is on a transferable job and he lives' in a rented accommodation. Now, if he gets transrerred somewhere else, he cannot take the Set Top Box with him. Or, he has to pay a security deposit of Rs. 2,000-3000. Why will he do it? If he wants to buy it outside, why will be spend Rs. 4,000 or so for buying it outside? So what is the rationale for this policy? It is a complete mess that this Government has created. I don's see any light at the end of the tunnel. Then, of course, there are new technologies that are coming into the country. The latest technology is what is called the Head-End-In-The-Sky; the Minister would know about it. One of the persons has been given a Letter or Intent to implement the Head-End-In-The-Sky technology. Now, what is this Head-End-In-The-Sky? You want to then bypass the local operators. Now what happens in the Head-End-In-The-Sky is that a particular operator, say, Hathway, or City Cable, sets up a station in any part of India and recieves the signals of all those channels de-encrypted on to that network that he has set up with in investment of Rs.500-700 crores. Now, once he sets it up and receives the channels, he de-encrypts it, and then passes it on the the local cable operator; it is only one signal. So, instead of the local operator de-encrypting various channels, say, from Star, Zee and Sony, the Head-End-In-The-Sky operator de-encrypts all of them, pays these broadcasters and sends one signal to the local operator who, in turn sends it to the consumer. That is the concept. Now, what is happening to that technology? You have allowed one particular

operator to play it? The other operator, Hathway is now asking for it. Probably, Hathway will also get it. Now, if you are going to have this particular technology, then you are going to have the Head-End-In-The-Sky, and then, you are going to have Direct-to-Home service, is there any Governemnt policy at all? What are these areas in which these various technologies are going to be implemented? What is the impact on price? What is the impact on availability? Can the consumer afford that price? And, remember, the middle-class in this country is not like the middle-class of Europe or the United States. The middle-class in this country cannot afford to pay Rs. 500-700 per month on entertainment alone. And, now with CAS, what is going to happen? Even in the lower middle-class family, if children have a room and parents have a separate room, and you need two television sets, then, you would need two Set-Top-Boxes. Either you invest in two Set-Top-Boxes or you pay rentals for two. How can they afford it? And, what is the Governments answer for it? There is yet another very serious thing that has been happening in this country and I want to bring the attention of the Minister to this.

What is happening is that the broadcaster and the distributor are one and the same companies. For example, Hathway is a company in which the equity is of Sony, or, some amount of equity is of Sony. In the meantime, Citicable is a distribution network which is controlled by Zee; in cable, it is controlled by somebody else, and you know it. Now, if these distribution companies are tied in to the broadcasters — and I see this happening all the time — Hathway says that it will not give the Star signal to those service operators who are being serviced by Zee. For example, I am a consumer, and I am in an area where I am serviced by Zee. The Hathway says, "I will not give you the signal; I will cancel your contract". That person says, "You cannot stop giving me the signal". Hathway says, "Go to the court". So, this way, Hathway, which is a foreign company, is trying to monopolise the entire consumers in that particular area by cancelling the contracts of the operators. You do not have a policy. You must have a policy to say that anybody who broadcasts cannot enter the distribution business because if you allow them to enter the distribution business, they will monopolise the distribution, as Hathway is trying to do already and the Government has no policy on it. You do not have a regulator set up under this Act, the regulator who will determine the prices. As far as the Congress Party is concerned, we said it in the beginning, and that has been our position, that you should allow the

market forces to have a free play. Let the market forces have a free play and, ultimately, the prices, will automatically come down, as it has happened in Chennai. But, you want to regulate it in the manner that you are doing, without a policy, without any objective, without the interests of the consumers at heart, and I charge this Government that it has shown no interest as far as the ordinary consumer is concerned, and has taken no steps to take care of that ocnsumer interest. It is total crony capitalism in this country that is happening. The Set-Top Boxes are also being supplied from only one source. There is no competition there also. So, where does the consumer go? And I am sorry to say that the Government, with open eyes, is allowing this injustice to be perpetrated against the consumer in this country. It is time the Government came clean and made a candid confession that it has failed. Let all parties get together. You set up a committee and see how we can work this system.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Vanga Geetha. Be brief. I think it is better that we proceed in the Calling Attention format. You can put questions only, because Mr. Kapil Sibal has already prepared the ground. If you put questions only, you can get anwers also in a better way.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA (Andhra Predesh) Madam, at present the Set-Top Boxes are being imported. As a result, the cost of the box to the consumr is on the high side. The Government should encourage Indian manufacturers to produce Set-Top Boxes in India so that the cost becomes cheaper to the consumer.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a question.

मंत्री जी, आपने लिख लिया है?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद) : जी।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nilotpalji, you can do the same thing.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Madam, I am not following even the question-answer format because I think there is no point in it. I had a very bitter experience with the I&B Minister. He thinks he has mastered the technology of the I&B sector. So, I can tell you very well what he is going to indulge in; instead of replying to the questions that Mr. Sibal has put, he will give a general lecture about how the Indian society is 'shining' bright.

But the issue here has nothing to do with technology. The entire thing is plain and simple finance, because, I also follow a little bit of technology and many of my colleagues, here in this House, know this, For the last ten years, I have been doing this and I do not know of any country which has introduced these kinds of Set Top Boxes. Because, technology, as Mr. Sibal has hinted, is something which should not be restrictive, so far as the consumer is concerned. All of us are in favour of technology and technology is opening up possibilities; therefore, technology should not impose constraints on the consumers. Actually, the point is that the outdated kind of technology that is involved in the creation of Set Top Boxes is being owned only by one company. When we raised this issue at the beginning of this debate, some six months back, some of us were in for subtle innuendos that we were being dubbed as people who were speaking on behalf of the broadcasting companies, which is most unfortunate. I mean this is a new kind of witch-hunting which goes on with this Government that whomsoever's arguments this Government finds inconvenient, they simply dub them as somebody's agent or working on behalf of somebody. Now, the point here is what we asked at that point of time, why you are importing this technology, why you are not creating conditions whereby new technologies, even in the production of Set Top Boxes, will be encouraged, and, why a restrictive regime. Let people go for options. And, you swear, day-in-day-out, by this market. Now, why are you determining prices? I saw in Press reports that week after week, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad and the I & B Secretary, are having a wrangling match with the broadcasters, cable operators and the multi-service operators to fix a price. We were told, at that point in time that, unnecessarily, they are charging so much of price, and now it will be a much cheaper option. I would like to have a very detailed and factual report from you, Sir, on what is the result in Chennai where you have implemented the system. What is the price the consumers are paying? Since yours is such a good system as you had advocated at that point in time, what is the result, how many people have bought Set Top Boxes in Chennai, and, out of a possible of how many consumers, and who is the gainer? These are the questions that I would like you to reply. Therefore, I think this is time enough, we should not stand on false prestige. Let us see the reality that this is flawed, because so many other technologies are coming; totally, a new situation has come to obtain; therefore, let us sit together, we have no problem, but you cannot have the cake and eat

it too. I do not know who has gained money by giving access to this company, which produces this technology and has a monopoly for production of Set Top Boxes. Madam, Geetaji was saying that the Government should encourage indigenous manufacturers, but even that does not solve the problem, because Indian manufacturers will have to pay certain royalty to those people who are having that technology. I don't know what complicated Set Top Box technology is, in this age, where technology is making rapid strides in this area, that you really will get stuck to only one technology provider. I mean this is very funny and this is quite contrary to the general lecture that you will, I am sure, enforce on all of us of this late hour. But, my single question is whether the Government is going to scrap the entire scheme. Let us discuss what is workable in the present condition so that maximum benefits of technological development can be passed on to the consumers, in terms of their freedom of choice. At the same time, we should also discuss the kind of money that they will pay at the end of the month for having the kind of choices that they make. Thank you.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) **:** आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदय, सैट टॉप बॉक्सेज की उपलब्धता नहीं होने की वजह से और इसके मूल्यों पर नियंत्रण नहीं होने की वजह से जो उपभोक्ताओं को दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है खास तौर से साउथ दिल्ली के, तो उससे निश्चित रूप से सरकार की जो मीडिया नीति है उसकी अदूरदर्शिता और अपरिपक्वता परिलक्षित होती है। यह बात मैं महोदया, इसलिए कह रहा हूं कि मेरे हाथ में माननीय मंत्री जी जिनका मैं बहुत सम्मान करता हूं उनका 6-8-2003 का वक्तव्य है उसमें उन्होंने यह कहा था कि जो कंडीशनल एक्सेस सिस्टम है वह कजूमर फ्रैंडली हैं, उसमें उन्होंने यह कहा था कि एन्लॉग सैट टॉप बॉक्स की कीमत 2500 होगी और डिजिटल सेट टॉप बॉक्स की कीमत तीन हजार होगी । उसमें उन्होंने आगे जो कहा था मैं उसे उद्धत्त करना चाहूंगा – यह भी आशा की जाती है कि मांग व स्वदेशी उत्पादन और आपूर्ति में बढ़ोतरी के साथ ही कीमतों में और अधिक गिरावट होने की संभावना है । सैट टॉप बाक्सेज की गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए भी कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं । महोदया, मैं यह गुजारिश करना चाहूंगा कि सैट टॉप बाक्सेज की जो कीमत कम होने की बात उन्होंने कही थी वह बढ़ रही है, कम नहीं हुई है। गुणवत्ता की यह हालत है, जिसके बारे में मैं अपने ही तजुर्बे की बात कर रहा हूं । मैंने यह बॉक्स अपने घर के लिए तीन हजार तीन सौ रूपए में लिया है । जो चैनल पहले दिए जाते थे उसके लिए केबिल ऑपरेटर को प्रति माह 253 रूपए दिया जाता था। स्थिति यह है कि चाहे जब वह बन्द कर देता है जिस कारण उसे फोन करना पड़ता है कि सैट टॉप बॉक्स भी काम नहीं कर रहा है, महोदया, स्थिति यह है कि घर में किसी और की डांट सुनें तो सुनें, आप इशारा समझ रही होगी महोदया,

बच्चों की भी डांट सुननी पड़ती है । बच्चों की डांट इसलिए सुननी पड़ती है कि महोदया, जो कार्टून नैटवर्क है, माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात की पुष्टि करेंगे, मैं बड़े अदब के साथ उनका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि कार्टून नेटवर्क बंद हो गया है इस प्रक्रिया की वजह से तो हमने पहले भी कहा था कि हमारी पार्टी का विरोध इस बात पर नहीं है, कंडीशनल एक्सेस सिस्टम का हम विरोध नहीं कर रहे हैं लेकिन यह जो प्रक्रिया अपनाई जा रही है, यह जो नीति अपनाई जा रही है, यह जो सिस्टम एडॉप्ट किया जा रहा है जिसमें कई विसंगतियां हैं जिसकी वजह से उपसभाक्ताओं को कई परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ सकता है । हमने उसमें संभावना व्यक्त की थी और इसीलिए उसका हम लोगों ने विरोध किया था महोदया, हमने सरकार को सचेत भी किया था लेकिन समय रहते सरकार सचेत नहीं हो पाई । उसका परिणाम यह हो रहा है कि पहले इस सरकार ने यह कहा था कि हम पूरे देश में इसे लागू करेंगे, फिर कहा कि हम चार मैंट्रो सिटी में लागू करेंगे, फिर कहा कि हम दिल्ली में लागू करेंगे और फिर कहा कि हम दिल्ली के एक खास भाग में लागू करेंगे । सरकार से हम यह जानना चाहते हैं कि इस सिस्टम को ये कानूनी रूप से लागू करना चाहते हैं या स्वेच्छा से लागू कराना चाहते हैं ? सरकार से हम यह भी जानना चाहते हैं कि दिल्ली के लिए सरकार की नीति क्या रहेगी ? हम सरकार से बड़े अदब से यह जानना चाहते हैं कि स्टेट के मामले में, मिसाल के तौर पर दिल्ली के मामले में इनका नजरिया क्या रहेगा? सैट टॉप बॉक्स के मामले में कई प्रकार के सवालिया निशान पिछले समय डिस्कसन में आए थे । यह भी बात आई कि हम क्यों न इंडीजनिस प्रोडक्शन के संबंध में इसकी पॉसिबिलिटी को एक्सप्लोर करें । यह भी बात आई थी कि स्वदेशी की बात कहने वाली सरकार क्यों न स्वेदश में ही हमारे यहां इस प्रकार का मेन्यूफैक्चर हो सकता है, इसकी जानकारी एकत्रित करके इसको करे । मैंने यह कहा कि स्वेदशी उत्पादन और आपूर्ति में बढ़ोतरी के साथ-साथ क्या स्वदेशी उत्पादन हो गया है? मैं आपके जरिए माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि सैट टॉप बॉक्सेज जो डिजिटल सैट टॉप बॉक्स आ रहे हैं हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में वे कौन सी कम्पनी के आ रहे हैं, उसके रेट क्या हैं, क्या इसका इंडीजनिस प्रोडक्शन हो सकता है, यह आपने पॉसिबिलिटी एक्सप्लोर की है? क्योंकि आपने हाउस में ही इस बारे में आश्वासन दिया था। तीसरी बात यह है कि कंडीशनल एक्सेस सिस्टम के संबंध में अब तो हालात उत्पन्न हो गए हैं । उससे आज अनिश्चय का वातावरण पैदा हो गया है जिसकी वजह से हालात सह हुए कि हमारे देश में भारत की टीम ने एक मैच जीता और कीर्तिमान स्थापित किया । लेकिन महोदया, हम उस मैच को भी देखने से वंचित रह गए। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि आगे आने वाले दिनों में इस प्रकार की बात न हो पाये ? पे-चेनल्स की बात आई है । माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में यह कहा था कि जो पे- चेनल्स हैं उन पर अंकुश लगेगा, उनकी कीमतों में वृद्धि नहीं होगी । यह मंत्री जी ने ही कहा था, लेकिन उसकी कीमतों में वृद्धि हो गई है और में उसकी पुनरावृत्ति नहीं करना चाहता हूं क्योंकि अभी कपिल सिब्बल साहब ने उसका उल्लेख किया है। मै दो-तीन बातें कह कर अपनी बात समाप्त करना चाहता हूं क्योंकि समय की कमी है ।

महोदया, जो केबल आपरेटर्स हैं, बहुधा यह देखा जाता है कि वे सही डिक्लरेशन नहीं देते हैं जो ब्राडकास्टर्स होते है उनको अपने सब्सक्राइबर्स के बारे में सही डिक्लरेशन नहीं देते हैं और उसका कारण यह है कि पै-चेनल्स की जो कीमत है उस पर नियंत्रण नहीं हो पाता है, वह बढ़ती रहती है इसलिए इसको दूर करने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठाने जा रही हैं? निश्चित रूप से इसका आन्सर यह होगा कि इसी के लिए हमने कडीशनल एक्सेस सिस्टम चालू किया है, लेकिन मात्र इस आन्सर से नहीं, थोड़ा इसको गंभीरता से हमें देखना पड़ेगा।

दूसरा, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह आश्वासन चाहूंगा कि बात यह आई है कि एक्सपेरीमेंट के तौर पर पहले हम इसको देहली में लागू करें, फिर चार मेट्रो सिटीज में लागू करें फिर जो चेन्नई की स्थिति है उसका जिक्र इन्होंने किया है। पूरे देश में इस सिस्टम को लागू करने से पहले क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि इसकी सफलता और असफलता का सही आकलन कर लिया जाये? यह सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि कि उपभोक्ताओं को किसी भी प्रकार की परेशानी का सामना न करना पड़े? और आखिरी बात क्या सरकार उपभोक्ताओं के हितों को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए जैसे कि टेलीकाम रेगुलेटरी अथारिटी का गठन किया गया है वैसे ही ब्राडकास्टिंग रेगुलेटरी अथारिटी के गठन के बारे में विचार कर रही है? यदि कर रही है तो उसका दायरा क्या रहेगा, उसको किस प्रकार की पावर्स दी जायेंगी और कैसे सुनिश्चित किया जायेगा कि उपभोक्ताओं के हितों की रक्षा की जाए ?

महोदया, आखिरी बात यह है कि जो फ्री टू एयर चैनल हैं उनके साथ-साथ जो पै-चैनल्स हैं, उनकी कीमतों में लगातार वृद्धि होती रहती है, उस पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए, बहुत बेतहाशा वृद्धि न हो, उसके लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं? आपकी जो प्रेडीसेसर मंत्री थी, उनके उत्तर की कापी मेरे पास है, उन्होंने यह कहा था कि यह जो सैट टाप बाक्स है उसकी कीमत 1,500 रूपये रहेगी। मेरे पास उस स्टेटमेंट की कापी है। इसकी पुष्टि में माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में, जो उन्होंने स्टेटमेंट 6-8-2003 को दिया था, इन्होंने यह कहा है कि 'Shri Suresh Pachouri put a question. I cross-checked it. Hon. Sushmaji,when she was the Information and Broadcasting Minister, had stated earlier that in case the set-top boxes are manufactured in the number of 10 to 15 lakhs, the prices will go down to Rs. 1500, or may be, to Rs. 1000. आज स्थिति क्या है? जो एनेलाग सैट टाप बाक्सिस हैं उनकी कीमत क्या है? जो डिजिटल सैट टाप बाक्सिस हैं, उनकी कीमत क्या है? और उनकी संख्या कितनी एवेलेबल है? क्योंकि यह भी बात आई थी कि जो लोग हैं, जो सैट टाप बाक्स का उपयोग करने वाले हैं वे हार्डली 22,25 परसेंट कंज्युमर्स रहेंगे, तो सैट टाप बाक्स का उपयोग करने वाले की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी? उनकी उपलब्धता क्या है? कीमतों पर नियत्रंण, उपलब्धता और कंज्युमर्स के हितों को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए माननीय मंत्री जी कंडीशनल एक्सेस सिस्टम को किस ढंग से लागू करने की योजना बना रहे हैं? मैं आपके जरिए से यह माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं। माननीय मंत्री जी इस बारे में जरूर प्रकाश डालेंगे, मैं यह अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं।

उपसभापति : लेट ईवनिंग में प्रकाश की बहुत आवश्यकता है । आप प्रकाश डाल दीजिए । मंत्री जी बोलिए ।

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, I must say that I am grateful to the hon. Members, Shri Sibal, Shri Pachouri, Shri Nilotpal Basu, Shrimati Geeta, for putting their perspective about CAS. We had a long debate on CAS, Madam, earlier also, including a lot of questions and answers. I would deal with some of the general issues together, and reply specifically too. But, Madam, let me begin with one basic premise.

What has come out from the statements? There is under-declaration; there is increase inprices and all the issues have been raised. Sureshji just mentioned about under-declaration as well. Now,Madam, let us be very clear about it. Yes, we do admit that everywhere in the country there is gross under declaration. By a conservative estimate itself, thousands of crores of rupees, which the Government coveld get from entertainment tax, is being denied because of small number of reporting being made. It is a fact. Second, Madam, in my last debate I had stated by reference to certain channels, in the last 8-9 years, 4-5 years, many channel prices have risen by as high as 1100 per cent, 1400 per cent. Those are facts. Now, Madam, let us be very clear about one very basic fact. It is a complete misnomer to say that CAS means only set-top box. No. it is not. CAS has two components-free to air and set-top box for pay channels. If you don't want to see pay channels, you do not need a set-top box. I am grateful to Shri Kapil Sibalji. the hon. member, who has mentioned about the experience of Chennai. What is the experience of Chennai? The experience of Chennai is,though I must say some people have also gone to court there, that against a monthly bill of Rs. 250 people are paying Rs. 80 to Rs.90 Now, many pay channels have become free to air. That is the dynamics of *....(Interruptions)...*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Which pay channels?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Sibal, I did not interrupt you. *....(Interruptions)...*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am not interrupting you. Please tell us, which pay channels because I know it. Please tell us, which ones. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Let me continue, please .... *(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him continue. You continue.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Now. Madam, the point is this. Madam, this is a very important point. Kindly see, there is a very interesting article in Hindustan Times on 20.12.03 very recently, Delhi "How Chennai beat CAS" and what they have stated, I am reading two paragraphs of it. There was a sense of deja vu reading about the gruntsand groans of Delhi's CAS-affected consumers. There were similar howls of complaints when CAS hit Chennai in September, that it had robbed viewers of their daily quota of TV entertainment.

But Chennai soon settled down-without the set-top boxes. The main reason why set-top boxes continue to gather dust on the shelves of cable operators is that the most watched Tamil channels are free to air. Even the odd pay channels-like KTV, SCV and Star Vijay-promptly turned free.

The result: a non-CAS household now pays a monthly bill of just Rs. 90 including all taxes, compared to the Rs. 150 Rs. 230 earlier. Therefore, Madam, I would like this hon. House to understand one thing. CAS does not mean forcible taking of a set-top box and we presume that all people want to see pay channels. We have provided for, based upon the feedback of MSOs, a minimum of 30 free to air channels. But sixty to seventy free to air channels are going to be provided whose list the Central and the Delhii Governments have also published in the newspapers. Therefore, the people who would be happy with free to air channels without a set-top box are certainly going to pay less, less than Rs. 100 and much, much less in comparison to what they were paying. They is very important to be appreciated. This fact is really highlighted. Therefore let us not presume. I am quite sure and rightly Shri Sibal said, broadcasters have a complaint about the advertisement; their revenue would be lost. There were other complaints. I will dwell upon them when I need that. The point to, note is that CAS also does one very important thing. If you content is very good, you pricing is very good, people will see you. People will go for set-top box. If your pricing is very costly, people will not see you and like Chennai you may be forced to become free to air. That is also the dynamics of CAS, which requires to

be appreciated. Madam, this is one aspect. Madam, the second very important thing I would like to say is, I agree with Mr. Sibal about teething problems; I do not deny that. But, Madam, in every transitionary rigime there is a teething problem. Let me give two instances.

Let us acknowledge that. Subsequently, it became a credit-taking plank in the elections. Let us also ignore that. But, kindly recall when CNG came about, there was a commotion , long line of buses and cars before CNG stations. But, it settled down and today, we see a freer Delhi environmentally. As Minister for Coal and Mines, I used to go to Shastri Bhawan. It was difficult to stand there. Now, the air is better. Therefore, let us allow a little transitory arrangement. Thirdly, Madam, they talked about the technology part of it. Madam, kindly see how India functions. In my initial comment, I have also mentioned when Rajiv Gandhi introduced computer in the country, there was so much of political commotion. "India is trying for bread, for roads without potholes and here is computer being brought." But soon computers changed the profile of the country.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They used to say, "Potato chips and computer chips."

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Now, we see computer has become an engine of development, a vehicle of knowledge and also an instrument of employment generation. Therefore, let us have a little patience. This I would like to say. Now, Madam, a lot of questons were asked about the Set-Top Box. Pachouriji, may I just reply to this issue of yours. You have mentioned it specifically and hon. Member, Smt. Geetha also referred to the indigenous manufacturing. Madam, it has been very rightly said. This aspect has engaged my attention. Madam, our officers are in tough with the SETMA people repeatedly, which is the representative of the Indian Manufacturers' Association, and they have said, "Please, don't stop CAS because if you will stop CAS, the demand for boxes will not be there and this industry cannot come up." What we have done, Madam, we have waived the duty, as far as the imported variety is concerned and we have waived the excise duty to the extent of 16 per cent, as far as the indigenous variety is concerned. Therefore, they gave a very intersting example to us, which I would like to share with you. I mentioned it earlier also. When the colour television came in

the early 80s, it used to come in 'knock-down' condition from abroad. Because people were testing in India as to whether colour television would be received or not. Once colour television stabilised in the country, a whole range of indigenous manufacturing started. The same thing about mobile phone. It was this big, Madam, kindly recall that two years ago...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : मैडम, यह तो पिछली डिबेट को पढ़ा जा रहा है। ....(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : पढ़ कहां रहा हूं, मै तो आप के प्रश्नों का उत्तर दे रहा हूं।

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : मैं ने जो खास प्रश्न पूछे हैं, उनका जवाब आप दीजिए।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : अगर मुझे अनुमति देंगे तो मैं सारे प्रश्नों का उत्तर दूंगा।

7.00 P.M.

THE DEUTY CHAIRMAN: History can't change. That is what he is saying.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sureshji is very right. If CAS will start rolling in, indigenous manufacturers will start manufacturing it in a big way. That has been the experience of India and that shall also happen in the case of CAS. Now, Madam, he raised certain specific issues. In September, 2001, the Task Force was constituted. Law was passed on their recommendation. It became a law providing for CAS. Thereafter, another Task Force was constituted which came with Rs. 72 package. All these things are well known. Madam, why we made a zonal basis-Sureshji, we never made it for the entire country-first only four metros were included. You must recall it. But, in the process of implementation, Madam, when we found it will be more consumer friendly initiative to go it zonal wise then we made it in Delhi one zone, in Bombay one zone, and I have taken a very clear position that State Governments and the Central Government have to work together and, therefore, I have written to the Chief Ministers also to have a State level implementation committee in Chennai, in Mumbai and Kolkata and tomorrow, I am going to meet Shiela Dixitji also on the entire situation in Delhi. Let me assure this House that we have to work together. There is no political divide on it at all. Madam, the problem in Delhi has happened because a very curious situation has taken place. Let me share that with the House. A writ petition was filed in the High Court questioning the deferment of Delhi from CAS. The judgement came on the date of counting itself, whereby the notification

releasing Delhi from CAS was held to be arbitrary and abuse of power. Thereafter, the MSO said that original notification had been revived and they came with the CAS package. Madam, one interesting development has also taken place. Consumers have filed a writ petition for staying of CAS. That was also heard today in the court and it is likely to be heard after 2 or 3 days. So, court cases are also there, which this House, in both the sides, need to know and. I have explained that. Now, Madam, there are two-three problems which I want to share with this House. Mr. Sibal is right. The problem we are facing is that MSOs and broadcasters are having a whole range of hostility *inter-se.*

That is a hard fact. That fact we never imagined when the whole CAS started rolling out..... *(Interruptions).*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: No, Madam. I had mentioned this fact in my earlier intervention in this debate that monopolies are being introduced. I mentioned it. It is on record. But, if you do not take note of it, what is to be done.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Sibal, just a minute. Madam, it is a fact that STAR is not willing to share the ZEE platform, ZEE is not willing to go on another platform. That divide is there. This matter also went to court, to MRTP, to the Supreme Court and, certain orders have also been passed. We are also monitoring the entire situation. Our officers have visited their preparations. We are very clear about few things. There has to be provision for outright sale. There has to be good provision for rental also.

Madam, as far as pricing part is concerned, I would like to inform Shri Kapil Sibal that we have got the leaflet from Hathway. He mentioned about that. As per this leaflet, the entire package minus the three packages of ZEE costs Rs. 149 only. Therefore, what you are taking about five hundred and all is not a fact..... *{Interruptions*....)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: That is only one.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Just a minute. Mr. Sibal, please. Mr. Sibal please.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him build his speech. If you interrupt, I think, the trend of thoughts gets broken, and then you will

complain that his channel is not working properly. So, let his channel go properly. His broadcasting should not be stopped.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, our view is very clear. We have fixed the price for free-to-air channels. As far as the rates of pay channels are concerned, we want it to be determined by the market forces. We are very clear about it. We will certainly monitor it. But, let the demand,of the consumers dictate the pricing. If the content is costly, if the price is costly, people must have the right to reject it, as they have done in Chennai.

I am quite sure, if it is allowed to settle down *....(Interruptions....)* Madam, let me very clear about it, and through this House, I want to convey it very clearly that if the corporate rivalry goes on unabated, if the consumers' interests are ignored, certainly, all options are open for me.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : मैडम,

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him finish *....(Interruptions..).* No. No.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि सेट टॉप बॉक्स की कीमत कम होगी । इन्होनें कहा था कि पे चैनल के रेट्स कम होंगे, लेकिन अब वे खुद ही कह रहे हैं कि कापेरिट हाउस की राय बन रही हैं। फिर कह रहे हैं कि मार्केट में कम्पटीशन हैं ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, don't interrupt. He is talking about the corporate rivalry of the channels, the broadcasting houses, and, not the Set Top Boxes.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, Mr. Sibal said that there is a point of prestige. Mr. Sibal, it is not. How do you get this impression? *....(Interruptions).* I am not on the point of prestige at all. Therefore, I am repeating that if the consumers' interests are unnecessarily ignored in the quest for corporate rivalry, certainly, we are open to all the suggestions. Why should we take it? But the transitory phase is there and, we will have to allow the transition phase. सुरेश जी, आप ने प्रश्न किया था, मैं आप के प्रश्न का उत्तर देता हूं । मैं आप से फिर रहा हूं, मैंने बताया कि अगर अधिकांश दर्शक सिर्फ फ्री टू एअर से संतुष्ट हैं और मेंरे ख्याल में यह संख्या बहुत बड़ी होगी, हम लोगों का भी फीड बैंक यही कहता है । यह दुनिया सिर्फ "सास भी कभी बहु थी" के नजरिए से नहीं चलती

है। बहुत से लोग 60-70 फ्री टू एअर चैनल्स देखना चाहेंगे और उन्हें वे देखने का अवसर मिलना चाहिए। अगर वे देखेंगे तो उन का बिल सस्ता होगा जो मैंने आप को बताया है यानी 72 रूपए टैक्स। अब दिल्ली सरकार कुछ टैक्स कम करेगी तो और कम हो जाएगा।

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : मंत्री जी, अगर आप इजाजत दें, जहां तक पे चैनल और फ्री टू एअर चैनल्स के चार मेंट्रो सिटी के परसेंटेज का प्रश्न हैं और फ्री चैनल्स का 39 है। दिल्ली का पे चैनल्स का 75 परसेंट हैं जब कि फ्री चैनल्स का 25 परसेंट है । कोलकता में पे चैनल्स का 59 परसेंट हैं और फ्री चैनल्स का 41 परसेंट हैं। मुंबई का पे चैनल्स का 72 परसेंट हैं और फ्री चैनल्स का 28 परसेंट हैं। चेन्नई का पे चैनल्स का 29 परसेंट हैं और फ्री चैनल्स का 70 परसेंट हैं। इस प्रकार मैं समझता हूं कि ये जो आकंडें बताए जा रहे हैं, जो मंत्री जी को कहीं-न-कहीं गलत आंकड़े बताए गए हैं। वह कृपया उन को सुधार लें। असली बात यह है कि उपभोक्ता को सेट टॉप बॉक्स नहीं मिल रहे हैं, सही कीमत में नहीं मिल रहे हैं और उस की वजह से उपभोक्ता को परेशानी हैं। अब अगर हमें आप की यही बातें सुननी हैं तो हम इस सदन से बहिर्गमन करते हैं क्योंकि आप ने पिछलें समय जो एश्योरेंस दिए थे कि पे चैनल्स की कीमत नहीं बढ़ेगी, वह बढ़ रही है। आप ने कहा था कि सेट टॉप बॉक्स सस्ते होंगे .....लेकिन सेट-टॉप-बॉक्स सस्ती कीमत पर उपलब्ध नहीं होंगे उपभोक्ता को, कन्ज्युमर को परेशानी होगी। इसलिए इसके प्रोटेस्ट में हम सदन से बहिर्गमन करते हैं।

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber)

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : मैडम, यह कौन सी बात हुई? मैंने तो अभी उत्तर भी नहीं दिया है। यह तो अन्याय है मेरे साथ। मैडम, मैंने यील्ड किया और अगर यील्ड का फल था उनका वाक-आऊट करना तो मैं यील्ड नहीं करता। मैंने तो ससंदीय मर्यादा के अनुरूप यील्ड किया। अब वे कम से कम मेरा पूरा उत्तर सुनने का साहस तो करते।

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी, आप भाषण करेंगे। भाषण आप पब्लिक के लिए भी करते हैं और हाऊस में जो बैठे हैं उनके लिए भी करते हैं। आपकी जो स्पीच होगी ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Madam, *...(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you. Please, I am not allowing. If you want to walk out, you can. But, don't interrupt him. This speech is made not only for those who walked out, it is *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: *...(Interruptions)...* Madam, I want to make one suggestion which will absolutely not waste your time.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, let him finish and then you speak. At the end of the speech *...(Interruptions).*

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: I am having only one suggestion for you, if you can give me time.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is being kind to yield to everybody, and they walk out. You also want to say something and walk out.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: No, Madam. *...(Interruptions).*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, I am also a Member of this House. In best Parliamentary tradition, I yielded. And, they replied to my yielding by walk-out, without even listening to my full speech.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: It is not something new. It is not that you have never walked out of this House in certain circumstances, hostile circumstances. *...(Interruptions).*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, it is new because I have been sitting here and *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: ..... You are defending the case very well. I am least interested in the debate. I am interested in the consumers. I feel the best thing will be not to take it as a prestige issue. Something on transitory basis you have introduced in one particular metropolis, that is, Chennai. It is better in the interest of all concerned, citing that example, the whole Chennai case should be brought forward by you. Have a discussion with you before you introduce it in other metropolis. Is there anything wrong in that? I have been to Chennai. I don't want to explain all this. Why to take it as a prestige issue? This issue is such a small issue so far as metro is concerned. It is only the consumers. Why don't you discuss this issue with all the party leakers, based on the experience from Chennai?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, I have already said myself in the very beginning that we have requested the State Chief Ministers of Bengal and Maharashtra to have State level Implementation Committee in which all the stake-holders, consumers should be there. Our officers are also going. In Kolkata, a meeting has taken place. In Maharashtra, it is yet to take place and we have to get a date from them. Therefore, all the process where the Chennai experience shall be brought to them. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: But why don't you *...(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please don't do it. *...(Interruptions).* Please, it is not a debating part.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: No, no, please allow *me...(Interruptions).* Please allow me to complete *...(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mantriji, you keep on *...(Interruptions).* This is a very *...(Interruptions).*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, have I to yield to everyone?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, you only yield to me and speak.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Now, Madam, having said that, let me clarify about one thing. Our officers are monitoring the scene. We are in constant touch with the Chief Minister, with Delhi Administration, because it is very important to understand the nitty-gritty of implementation at the ground level. The State Government has to play a very crucial role. We are in touch with their officers, their SDOs, their Deputy Commissioners, etc. They have also issued notification about nodal officers. We have also stated. But, Madam, let me be very clear about it, as far as the consumers' interest is concerned, that is always foremost in my mind. Yes, during the transitory phase, there would be some teething problems. As far as the pricing of set-top box is concerned, digital set-top box is in the region of Rs. 3,800 to Rs. 3,900, if you take in one go. There are also rental schemes. All the options are there. We are also insisting very clearly that consumers must be provided with rental scheme. And, there should not be any forceable sale of set-top box, because this is really a kind of situation prevailing that CAS means set-top box has to be purchased. We are very clear, if you want to see only free-to-air channels, don't purchase the set-top box. Madam, other schemes are also coming. But, Madam, experience says only that if you allow a particular scheme to become operational, Madam, I am sorry, I am again referring to mobile phone, why they went about it, but, let me repeat it ....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nobody is there to complain, you can speak.

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : मैडम, एक सवाल करना चाहूंगा।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwalia, now, are you planning to walk out?

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : मैडम, सिर्फ एक सवाल, मंत्री जी जो बार-बार कह रहे हैं कि फ्री टू एअर, फ्री टू एअर, लेकिन लोगों की धारणा यह है कि जैसा अभी हम केबल टीवी में देखते हैं कि उसमें एडवर्टाइजमेंट आती है, जो एक चेतावनी होती है कि अगर दूरदर्शन कार्यक्रम स्वच्छ नहीं दिखा रहा हो तो केबल वाले से कंपलेंट करें, अब अगर फ्री टू एअर में जो भी आएगा वह भी ऐसा ही आएगा कि दिखेगा नहीं तो अंततः लोगों को मजबर होकर सेट-टॉप-बॉक्स लेना पड़ेगा। दूसरी बात यह है कि सेट-टॉप-बॉक्स आपने सब इम्पोर्ट करने के लिए कह दिया हैं, जबकि इंडिया में उसका डिजाइन अवेलेबल हैं और वह गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया का अर्गेनाइजेशन हैं।

आपने उनको क्यों नहीं कहा ? आप उनको आगाह करके यहां के लोगों को सैल्फ ऐम्प्लॉयमेंट दे सकते थे, यहां के लोग उसे तैयार कर सकते थे, उसकी कीमत और कम हो सकती थी। आप कह रहे हैं कि रंगीन टीवी 1980 में एशियाड के टाइम पर आया और उस टाइम स्क्रू ड्राइवर टैक्नोलॉजी के नाम पर सारी चीजें आई। ये सैट कॉप बॉक्स आज 4,000 रूपए के हैं, कल चाइना से 400 रूपए के आंएगे, तब क्या होगा? उसके लिए क्या किया है आपने, उसके बारे में कुछ सोचा है आपने?

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी, बता दीजिए इन्हें।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : मैडम, पहली बात जो इन्होंने बताई फ्री टू एयर की विजिब्लिटी के बारे में इन्होंने एक सुझाव दिया है। मेरे पदाधिकारी यहां है, हम स्वयं देखेंगे, मेरे पदाधिकारी देखेंगे, दिल्ली सरकार के साथ मिलकर देखेंगे कि फ्री टू एयर की विजिब्लिटी उचित रहे। अगर इस बारे में कोई शिकायत किसी इलाके से आएगी तो हमारे जो नोडल आफिस बनाए गए हैं, दिल्ली सरकार के साथ मिलकर उसकी हम चिंता जरूर करेंगे।

जहां तक इन्होंने सैट बॉक्स की बात कहीं, तो हमने उनकी गुणवत्ता के संबंध में ब्यूरों आफ इंडियन स्टेंडर्ड से उसका स्टेंडर्ड फिक्स कराया है। यह सैंकिड टास्क फोर्स ने ही करा दिया था, जो बाकायदा हुआ है। जहां तक आपने कहा कि इंडिया में यह क्यों नहीं बनता है, यही तो सवाल में आपसे पूछ रहा हूं ? यह तब बनेगा जब आप इसे बनाना शुरू करने देंगे। आप मोबाइल में देखिए कि मोबाइल फोन बाहर से आया, पहले इतना बड़ा था, फिर छोटा हुआ। पहले 16 रूपए प्रति मिनट था इनकमिंग काल, आज इनकमिंग काल पर चार्ज खत्म हो गया। यह सब हुआ, जब आपने मोबाइल को चलने दिया। यदि मोबाइल को चलने नहीं दिया होता तो थे सारे अनुभव नहीं होते। यह तो बिल्कुल मार्किट फोर्स की वर्किंग का एक सिस्टम हैं, यही मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं। लेकिन

जहां तक ऐनॉलॉग सैट टॉप बॉक्स का सवाल है उसकी कीमत 2500 से 2700 रूपए हैं, यह मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं।

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : ऐनॉलॉग कौन लेगा जब सारा डिजिटल सिस्टम आने वाला हैं? जब सारा डिजिटल हो रहा है तो ऐनॉलॉग कौन लेगा?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : आप जरा मुझे बोलने दीजिए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ahluwaliaji, let him complete. If you have any objection, you can raise it. But do not interrupt the reply, because I have to adjourn the House.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : अरे भाई, मुझे बोलने तो दीजिए , मेरी पूरी बात सुनिए तो सही।

मैडम, मैं अहलुवालिया साहब को बताना चाहता हूं, वे हमारे व्हिप हैं, शासक-दल के सदस्य हैं, कि हिन्दुस्तान के बारे में वे जाने हैं। मैडम, यहां 60 परसैंट ब्लैक एंड व्हाइट टेलीविजन हैं, वे डिजिटल टैक्नोलॉजी की बात करते हैं। इस देश में टी0वी0 आया 1957 में, कलर टी0वी0 आया 1982 में, फिर भी, मेरे लिए भी एक अनुभव था कि इस देश में 60 परसैंट ब्लैक एंड व्हाइट टी0वी0 है। महानगरों में 40 से 44 प्रतिशत ब्लैक एंड व्हाइट टी0वी0 है। तो यह मान लेना कि सब लोग डिजिटल में ही जाएंगे , मेरे विचार से यह हिन्दुस्तान के बारे में सही समझ नहीं होगी। इसलिए बहुत से लोग एनॉलॉग बाक्स को लेकर भी खुश हो रहे हैं, संतुष्ट हैं क्योंकि उसमें विजिब्लिटी दिखाई पडती है। हां, यह बात ठीक वे कह रहे हैं कि डिजिटल आने से वहां पे परव्यू 300 चैनल्स की सभावना अधिक होगी। तो जो पैसे देना, उनका होगा।

मैडम, मैं अंत में यहीं कहना चाहूंगा कि मैंन स्पष्ट रूप से कहा था कि "केस" के क्रियान्वयन में हमारा मन बहुत खुला है। हमने यह बात बार-बार कही हैं। अगर इस तरह की हॉस्टिलटी और आपस में राइवेरिटी चलती रहेगी तो हमारे सामने सारे विकल्प खुले हुए हैं। इसलिए हमने बार-बार लोगों को इस बात को कन्वे किया है कि इसको इम्प्लिमेंट ईमानदारी से करें, कंज्यूमर इंटरेस्ट को फोरमोस्ट रखकर करें, कंज्यूमर को कठिनाई नहीं होनी चाहिए-चाहे वह सैट टाप बॉक्स की रेंटल स्कीम हो, मैंटेनेंस की स्कीम हो या सर्विसिंग की स्कीम हो। ये सारी चिंता हम कर रहे हैं और मैडम, इस बारे, में जैसा मैंने हमेशा कहा है, मैं अभी भी मानता हूं कि थोड़ा संयम रखा जाएगा तो यह एक अच्छा विकल्प आया है।

मैडम, एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं, सिब्बल साहब चले गए, उन्होंने के बारे में कहा था, हैडर्नस स्काई की बात उन्होंने कही। मैडम, इस देश में कभी दो मोड हैं, एक है टैरिस्ट्रियल, जो आप देखती है दूरदर्शन एरियल लगाकर और दूसरा है केबल। इस देश में आठ करोड़ टी0वी0

है, चार करोड़ घरों मे केबल है और यह सख्या तथा इस देश में टेलीविजन 31 प्रतिशत की रफ्तार से बढ़ रहा है । मैडम, मैं आपके माध्यम से इस सदन को बताना चाहता हूं कि अभी जो टी0वी0 का सीन है, वह बड़ा आर्टिफिशियल हैं, वर्ल्ड ओवर इमसें इन्वेस्टमेंट हो रहे हैं। आज हिन्दुस्तान के टी0वी0 उद्योग में पूंजी निवेश की आवश्यकता है। आज यहां अच्छी तकनीकी की आवश्यकता है, कंबल में और सुधार की आवश्यकता है और यह सब तभी होगा जब हम इसकी आर्टिफिशिएलिटी को डग्नोर करके एक पे-चैनल के ऐलिमेंट को भी रिकग्लाइज करेंगे, जहां पर people will have the right to charge as per the market demands, with good quality. ये सब अभी उसकी एक शुरूआत की कोशिश है। अभी एक हफ्ता मात्र हुआ है और उसमें भी थोड़ा संयम नहीं रखा जाएगा तो मेरे ख्याल से उचित नहीं होगा ।

मै हाऊस से इतना ही कहूंगा कि थोड़ा सयम रखें, इस पर पूरी नजर हम रखें हुए हैं और इसमें तुष्टि करने की हमारी कोई मंशा नहीं है । All the options are open, if the consumer's interest is completely jettisoned. इतना ही मुझे कहना है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But throughout the United States, they have these cables with the set-up boxes. Nobody complains there. How do they do it? Why are the people complaining here?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, I will explain that. There are two or three schemes there. I also tried to know. Somewhere, they keep set-up boxes free, but the rental and the cost of the bouquet are very high. That is also there. Because of the pay channel, V channel is there. Somewhere, they give it in the rental part of it in the monthly subscription itself. Somewhere, they make it for an outright sale. But even in England, and also in America, there is CAS with set-up boxes. There is DTH also; there is terrestrial also. All the three options are open. Therefore, it is never the intention of the Government. Therefore, I take strong objection to the expression used that we are completely irresponsible in our conduct. We are watching the entire situation and we are doing our best. But, Madam, let us have a little patience. I still hold the very firm view that is CAS is allowed to roll out with the cooperation of all, certainly, a great percentage of growth in the Indian television sector will get a good boost with proper consumer satisfaction. That is all.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Smt. Vanga Geetha, your answer has still not come.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Madam, I want to put only one question. Is there any proposal to form a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority to regulate the broadcasting system?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, I have always said, earlier also, that I do recognise the need for a broadcasting regulatory, the manner in which the whole thing is happening. But Madam, I have earlier also stated that we have a Convergence Bill where a common regulator is there for telecom and broadcasting, both. We have taken a view in the Group of Ministers to defer it. The Cabinet has to take a view on that because any GOM recommendation becomes final only after the Cabinet approval is there. We have got 77 amendments of the Standing Committee on the Convergence Bill. Therefore, that is an issue. But speaking for myself, I do recognise the need for a regulator.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. The discussion is over.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Constitution (One hundredth Amendment) Bill, 2003

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:—

> "In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Constitution (One-hundredth Amendment) Bill, 2003, which has been passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on 22nd December, 2003, in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India."

Madam, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

> The House then adjourned at eighteen minutes past seven of the clock, till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 23rd December, 2003.

MGIPMRND—5192RS—09-06-2003.